

### Claims

1. A tripod (1) for supporting apparatus in general and, in particular, for optical or photographic apparatus and the like, comprising a spider (2), a pillar (8) arranged to be housed with a stem (7) thereof in a through-hole (6) formed through the spider (2), and a head (4) arranged for receiving the apparatus, the head (4) being connected to a first end (7a) of the pillar (8), characterized in that, in the closed-up condition, that is, in the most compact condition of the tripod (1), the head (4) is at least partially housed inside the through-hole (6).

2. A tripod according to Claim 1, comprising means for adjusting the orientation of the head (4), the adjustment means being fixed to a second end (7b) of the stem (7), axially remote from the first end (7a).

3. A tripod according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 in which the head comprises a spherical element (15) and a collet (19) housed inside the stem (7) in the region of the first end (7a), the collet (19) being active on the spherical element (15) in order to clamp it selectively, relative to the stem.

4. A tripod according to Claim 3 in which the head (4) comprises a ring nut (17) mounted on the spherical element (15) and such that, when the tripod (1) is in the closed-up condition, the ring nut (17) is in abutment with the spider (2) and the spherical element (15) is housed inside the hole (6).

5. A tripod according to Claim 3 or Claim 4, comprising a sleeve (21) with a frustoconical opening (22), driven into the first end (7a) of the stem (7), the collet (19) being housed inside the sleeve (21) and cooperating with the frustoconical opening for the clamping of the spherical element.

6. A tripod according to one or more of Claims 3 to 5 in which the means for adjusting the orientation of the head (4) comprise a tie rod (23) associated, by means of a first (23a) of its ends, with the collet (19) in order, when tensioned, to lock the relative rotation of the spherical element (15) inside the collet (19).

7. A tripod according to Claim 6 in which the means for adjusting the orientation of the head (4) comprise a knob (27) in abutment with the second end (7b) of the stem (7), the tie rod (23) being disposed inside the stem (7) and being connected, by means of a second (23b) of its ends, to the knob (27), for the adjustment of the tensioning of the tie rod (23).

8. A tripod according to Claim 7 in which the knob (27) comprises a female thread (30) in which the second threaded end (23b) of the tie rod (23) is engaged by screwing, so that rotation of the knob (27) varies the tensioning of the tie rod (23) and consequently the clamping of the collet (19) onto the head (4).